

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/247 FOR Despatch #155

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Jan. 13, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127

REGARDING: Cultivation of cotton in Italian East Africa. Departure from Rome of a mission to investigate the possibility of--.

A mission sent by the Cotton Company of Ethiopia left Rome for Ethiopia on January 9th to investigate the possibilities of increasing the cultivation of cotton in Italian East Africa.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.00/34 FOR Report #44

FROM Naples (McCloud) DATED April 28, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING: Cotton -- Italian East Africa.
Development of cotton in regions well adapted for
cotton cultivation.

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 F. Cotton: This downy plant fibre, of increasing importance in time of peace as well as war, has a definite place in the autarchic program under discussion. (In this connection attention is invited to the belief that Ethiopia offers an excellent market for manufactured cotton goods and that Italy, one of the world's largest manufacturers of textile, is in advantageous position to supply it at a favorable price given a suitable source of raw material at a reasonable cost.) Other countries are said to have been able to increase its production under less favorable conditions than obtain in Ethiopia; the colony is urged to profit by their example.

Apparently Ethiopia possesses several regions well adapted for cotton cultivation, i.e. those between 1,200 and 1,800 meters in altitude. In many parts of the Empire the cultivation of cotton has been practically unknown; in others the plant grows in the wild state. Consequently production is extremely limited at this time, - just sufficient to satisfy local needs. Exportation of the product has not been dreamed of heretofore. The only sections of Ethiopia where cotton has been grown, but in very small quantities, are Cobbò, Tana, Galle and Sidamo.

As a start toward remedying this situation selected seeds, adapted to the soil of the various sections, have been distributed to the natives and agricultural experts are lending them assistance in cultivation, harvesting, ginning, and packing. Moreover, apart from the agricultural side of the problem, equal consideration is given to related activities such as the estab-

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lishment of gins, packing units, mills, and transportation facilities. A beginning in this direction has taken place at Tessenei; others are planned for Soddu, Lékempti and Basso Giubba. Some 100 hectares of land near Laga Hare near Dire Dawa have been set aside for the erection of a large establishment for the spinning and weaving of cotton, - the cotton goods to satisfy native demand. The plant will have 3,500 spindles to start; eventual hope for, - 10,000. Additionally, an organization known as the "Ente per il Cotone dell'Africa Italiana" has been created under the direction of the Ministry for Italian Africa for the purpose of encouraging and directing the development of the Ethiopian cotton industry in all of its phases.

Central File: Decimal File 865D.61321, Internal Affairs Of States, Agriculture., Field Crops. Seeds., Fibers., Italian East Africa, Cotton., Jan. 13, 1937 - Apr. 28, 1938. January 13, 1937 - April 28, 1938. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSC5109727747/FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.